



## Texas Department of Health

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Commissioner of Health

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TO: All Food Establishments Permitted by the Texas Department of Health

SUBJECT: New Requirement for a Certified Manager

During the past legislative session, Chapter 437 of the Texas Health and Safety Code was amended enabling the Texas Department of Health to require one certified food manager to be employed by each food establishment permitted by the Department. Subsequently, the Texas Board of Health passed new rules effective July 5, 2002, to enact this requirement.

Although the rules are technically in place at this time, we intend to work with all food establishments and allow a phase-in period for you to obtain certification of one manager in your establishment. Certification is obtained by passing a department approved food manager examination consisting of 75 basic food safety and sanitation questions. Test sites are now available throughout the state for testing and many of the test sites also offer training before administration of the test. Accredited training course providers also administer department approved examinations. There will be a nominal cost for the examination but the certification is valid for five (5) years and is transferrable from one jurisdiction to another. It is also anticipated that an approved Internet examination will soon be available.

Most of the local health departments in Texas have required food manager certification for many years and over 75% of the food establishments in the state already have certified managers on site. Since this is a new requirement for your establishment, however, we are allowing all food establishments until March 1, 2003 to obtain a certified manager. After that time, failure to have a certified manager employed by your establishment will result in a citation during your inspection.

The rules, "Frequently Asked Questions", a list of approved examination providers, a registry of accredited training courses, and a list of licensed test site locations are available on our Internet site: <http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/bfds/retail/training.html>. You may also contact us at the letterhead address or at (512) 719-0232 for additional information.